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PORTSLADE-BY-SEA



REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1948

by  
N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of  
Hove.

### SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.Mun.E.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

### HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Miss ARMSTRONG, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate.

# Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1948—a year noteworthy amongst other respects for the coming into force of the National Health Act, 1946, which means that to an even greater extent than previously the subject matter must be confined to infectious disease and environmental hygiene. The policy of removing the supervision of many of the social services away from the control of the local inhabitants has had some advantages, particularly on the planning and financial side, but it has also meant a loss of interest in and a lack of knowledge of their development and administration. To some extent I have endeavoured to remedy this deficiency by including separate supplements dealing with the School Medical Service in the area of the Hove and Portslade Divisional Executive for the whole year and of the Health Services of the Hove and Portslade Health Sub-Committee for the period July 5th to December 31st, both of which contain representatives from the Portslade-by-Sea Urban District Council.

The general health of the community judging from the sickness returns remained good and the incidence of infectious disease apart from Measles, which for the second year in succession reached a high level, was light—25 cases of Scarlet Fever, with 5 admissions to Hospital mostly on account of home conditions, and no cases of Diphtheria. The 221 cases of Measles included only 1 Hospital admission and 70 per cent. were in children between the ages of 3—10, an age group where resistance is likely to be high unless the type of disease is exceptionally severe.

The table giving details of Immunisation against Diphtheria shows some apparent falling off in the numbers, but this is accounted for by the thorough revision of the records and the fact that many of those protected in the years 1940—1944 had by 1948 arrived at the age of 15 and therefore are no longer included in the returns. Immunisation along with Vaccination is now the responsibility of the Health Sub-Committee who have appointed an additional Assistant Medical Officer and a Record Clerk to carry out these duties.

There was a not unexpected fall in the Birth rate from 20.6 to 16.27 and a corresponding decline in the Infant Mortality Rate from 44.4 to 32.55 with no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough and no Maternal Deaths.

Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis rose from 5 to 11—2 of which were in children under the age of 15—and 7 under the age of 25 with a preponderance of females—a national phenomenon for which there is no very clear explanation.

The Housing situation was alleviated to the extent that 63 new Council Houses were erected and a total of 72 families rehoused.

One of the effects of the National Health Act has been to remove from the Medical Officer of Health most of the curative side of his duties with a corresponding concentration in preventative medicine and environmental hygiene.

Much of the former will fall to be provided through the Health Sub-Committee for the area, but there will remain for many years to come in Portslade the necessity to raise the standard of the latter both by construction of new houses and the replacement of many of the older properties whose amenities, design and condition fall far short of present day requirements.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 13,210.

BIRTHS :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	103	100	203
Illegitimate	..	9	3	12

Birth Rate : 16.27.

## STILL BIRTHS :

6. Rate per 1,000 births—27.90.

## DEATHS :

Male .. 75  
 Female .. 72      Total : 147.

Death Rate : 11.12.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-  
 birth : Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age : 7.

Rate per 1,000 births : 32.55.

## Deaths from :

Measles (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	..	2

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

### DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 9 houses served by 5 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects	..	221
Number of inspections made for the purpose		556
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	213
Number of inspections made for that purpose		535
Number of complaints received	.. ..	296
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act)	..	221
Statutory Notices served	.. ..	35
Houses found dirty or verminous	..	13
Houses with insufficient refuse bin	..	106
Defective Drains	.. ..	11
Defective Closets	.. ..	26
Defective Sinks	.. ..	7



Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	70
Defective Paving of Yards	..	..	9
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings		..	191
Defective Floors	..	..	33
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc.		..	86

### RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919).

The campaign in the eradication of Rats and Mice has been continued, and a treatment of all the sewers in the district has been successfully completed. Although the tests showed infestation in the sewers, none were heavy and the treatment carried out was successful.

The Rodent Operator dealt with 115 infestations on surface properties, and paid 460 visits for that purpose. This is an increase on the number of infestations dealt with last year, and this was probably due to the free service now provided which undoubtedly has resulted in the public reporting infestation without the fear of having to pay for the treatment carried out.

### Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 13 houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfested as follows :
- (2) By removing and easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	221
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	556
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	221

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices*

Number of defective dwelling - houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	183
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*A. *Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a)	By Owners	9
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- |     |   |    |
|-----|---|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 91 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :                  |    |
| (a) | By Owners   | 10 |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of Owners   | —  |

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation               | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made                              | — |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders                                 | — |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) : |   |
| (a) | To render the house fit for human habitation   | — |
| (b) | As to usage other than for human habitation  | — |

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | — |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	32	12	6	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	40	21	1	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) ..	2	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	74	33	7	<i>Nil</i>

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.) .. ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. ..	2	3	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective .. ..	4	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	12	13	—	—	—



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 Farm in the district from which milk is supplied.

There are 3 Dairies in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairy-men who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

ICE CREAM. There are 2 premises registered for manufacture of Ice Cream, and 14 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

105lbs. of beef, 98 stones of fish, 19 cans of corned beef, 305lbs. of sausages, 353 cans of food, 74lbs. of flour, 41 jars of jam, 109 packets of cake mixture, 16 boxes of cheese.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1948.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	9	1	—	2	1	—	—

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1948.

DISEASE.	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	R'moved Hospital	D'ths.
Scarlet Fever ..	25		5	2		3	9	2		3		1			5	
Erysipelas ..	5											1	3	1	2	
Pneumonia ..	19		1	1	1	1	2			1		3	5	4		5
Measles ..	221	4	22	28	20	34	103	5	2	3					1	
Whooping Cough ..	66	8	7	7	6	10	28									
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2									2						
Chicken Pox ..	1								1							
	339	12	35	38	27	48	142	7	3	9		5	8	5	8	5

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to  
31st December, 1948.

Age at 31-12-48, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5 to 9 1939-1943	10 to 14 1934-1938	Total under 15
Number Immunised	—	107	125	77	169	512	199	1189
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1948		Children under 5. 1142				Children 5-14 1863		3005

The number of children immunized during the year was 172.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

